



FY 2018 / FY 2019 BUSINESS CASE

Agency: Department of Natural Resources – Recovery Programs Office

Request Title: Management of Rare Plant Data

Amount Requested: \$40,000

Duration of Funding: FY 2018 one-time FY 2019 one-time FY 2019 ongoing

Appropriation Code: RGA

Project/Program Name: Utah Rare Plants Database

Total Amount Requested: \$40,000

Funding Type Requested: Restricted – Species Protection

Detailed Description of the Request and Why it is Important:

Utah has one of the highest rates of plant endemism in the country, and the State has a correspondingly high number of plants listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), with many others at risk of becoming listed. At present, the State of Utah and the Natural Heritage Program employs an outdated database to track spatial locations, population numbers, distribution and habitat condition to provide rare plant information to industry, land managers, regulatory agencies, and other interested parties. These entities use the Natural Heritage data and associated landscape level habitat models to assist in decision making processes ranging from Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing and delisting processes, land management projects, oil and gas development, pipelines, transportation and powerline routes, and creation of Conservation Agreements or setting priorities for conservation actions. It has become clear that a major overhaul of the existing database is needed to store and analyze rare plant data to streamline access to these data by industry and for use by the State of Utah in preventing future listings under the Endangered Species list, as well as helping our office to prioritize recovery actions for those species already listed (so we can get them off the ESA list).

If this Project/Program is not funded, Identify Alternative Solutions:

We have applied for a grant from the federal government's Landscape Conservation Cooperative, but this program has been targeted for elimination. Without a major upgrade to the plant database, industry and the Department will continue to utilize the plant heritage database. Our last request demonstrated that data since 2013 was not in the database. This resulted in several weeks of contacting others for their survey data.

How will you Measure Success if this Project/Program is funded:

Success will be measured using three parameters. 1) Reduction in time for industry and others to get data. We expected to be able to reduce response time from 14 days to 3 days. 2) Increase the timeliness of field data being entered into the database. 3) The number of plant listings avoided and the number of plants removed from ESA listing.

FY2018 Supplemental Request

Financing	FY 2018
General Fund	
School Funds	
Transportation Fund	
Federal Funds	
Dedicated Credits	
Restricted Funds	\$40,000
Transfers (specify)	
Other (specify)	
Beginning Balance	
Total Financing	\$40,000

Expenditures	FY 2018
Personal Services	
In-State Travel	
Out-of-State Travel	
Current Expense	\$40,000
DP Current Expense	
DP Capital	
Capital Outlay	
Pass Thru/Other	
Total Expenditures	\$40,000
FTE's:	0